

In the claims:

Please substitute the following full listing of claims for the claims as originally filed or most recently amended.

1. (Currently amended) A keyboard apparatus, comprising:
  - a frame;
  - a link bearing, provided on the frame and having an elongated hole;
  - a link, slidably engaged with the elongated hole of the link bearing at a first end; and
  - a stopper, provided on the frame, ~~and positioning which, when in contact with a second end of the link, positions~~ the link at an assembling position in the elongated hole,wherein the link is disposed at the assembling position in the elongated hole when a key top is assembled to the link.
2. (Original) The keyboard apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the stopper has an inclined face; and
  - wherein the link laid down on the frame is moved down along the inclined face of the stopper by its own weight so that the link is automatically set in the assembling position.
3. (Original) The keyboard apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frame is constituted by a metal plate; and
  - wherein the link bearing and the stopper are formed by subjecting the metal plate to a sheet metal process so that a metal base frame for the keyboard apparatus is formed.
4. (Currently amended) A keyboard apparatus, comprising:
  - a frame, formed by a metal plate;
  - a link bearing, formed by subjecting the metal plate to a sheet metal process;
  - a link, connected to the link bearing, wherein the link is formed by subjecting a metal wire rod to a bending process; and

a key top, connected to the link so that the key top is lifted and lowered.

5. Canceled

6. (Original) The keyboard apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the link bearing is formed by subjecting the metal plate to a boring process and a cut-raising process.

7. (Original) The keyboard apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the link bearing is formed by subjecting the metal plate to an ejection process.